

Serial No.: 10/092,113
Examiner: Gopal C. Ray

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-19 and 22-25 remain in this application.

The Examiner has required proposed drawing corrections or corrected drawings. Proposed drawing corrections are submitted herewith as copies of Figs. 1-4, with the required legend proposed to be added.

The specification has been amended to revise information about related applications, as required.

Claims 14-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 104(a) as being unpatentable over Loach et al. in view of Balakrishnan. Independent claim 14 has been amended to recite that "connector holes forming said rP1 and rP2 connector segments correspond to connector holes forming said P1 and P2 connector segments but are electrically separated therefrom". This is not the arrangement found in Loach, which teaches (col. 6, lines 57-60) 10-row connectors loaded with 9 rows of pins on the rear of the backplane, and 7-row connectors on the front, with 6 rows of the pins projecting through the backplane into the front connectors and 3 rows only projecting into the backplane.

Moreover, Applicants do not see that the Balakrishnan reference provides the motivation for the problem solved or the structure described in their claim 14. Balakrishnan, relatively free of constraints, has designed a high capability backplane. The thrust of the present invention is expanding the capability of a system, while conforming to the CPCI standard and to third-party card components conforming with that standard which must be plugged into the backplane.

It is submitted that the Loach and Balakrishnan references do not suggest the desirability of the solution provided by the present invention as claimed or the solution itself. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 14-19 and 22-25 be allowed.

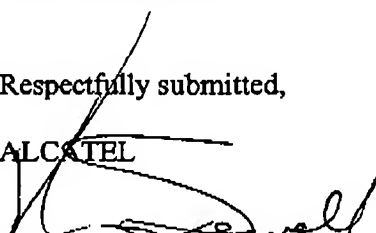
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It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL

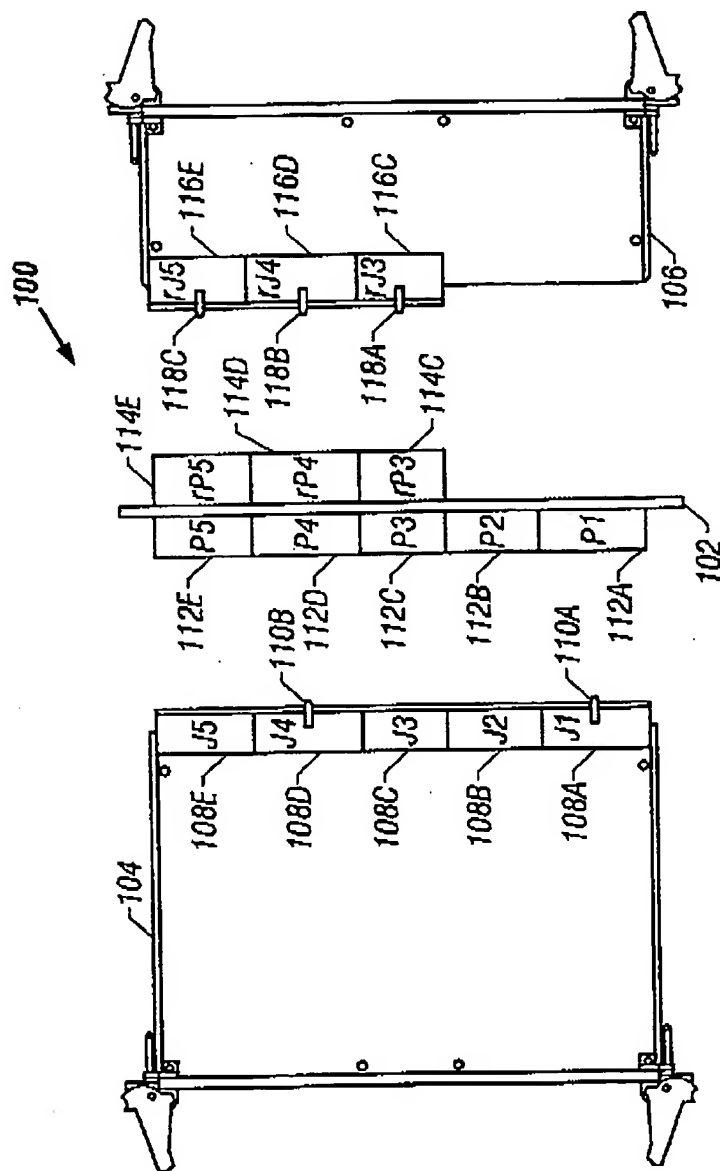

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Annotated Marked-up Drawings

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FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

Annotated Marked-up Drawings

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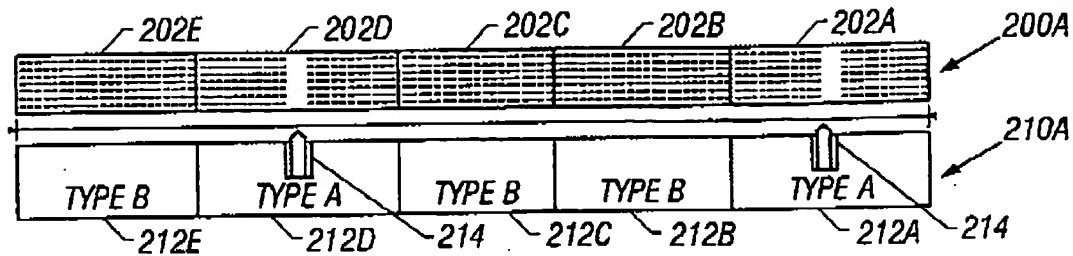


FIG. 2A (PRIOR ART)

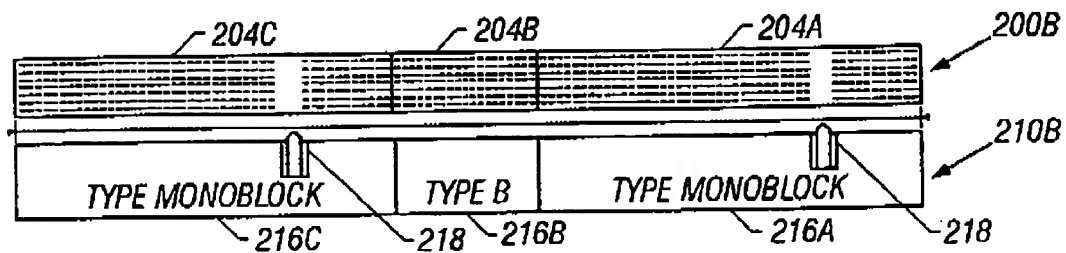


FIG. 2B (PRIOR ART)

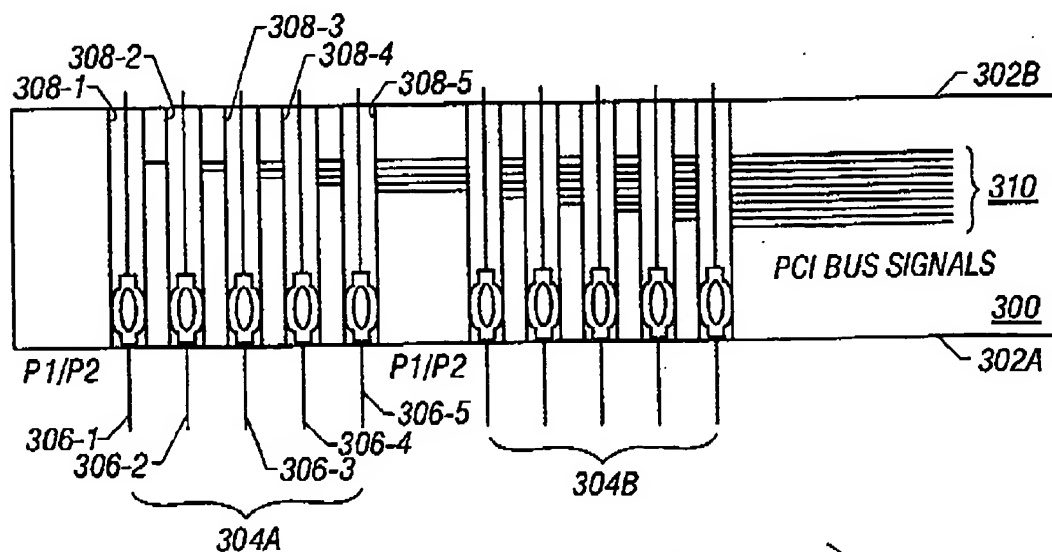
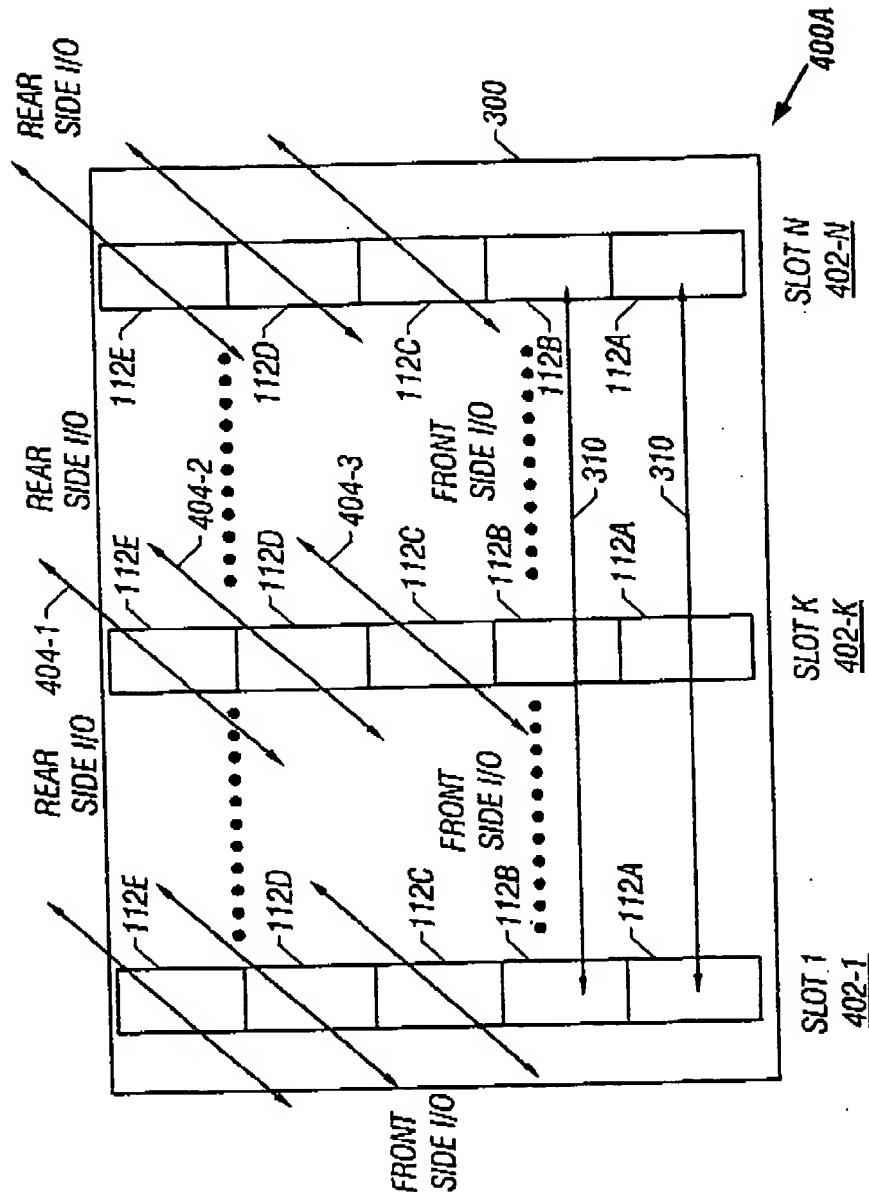


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

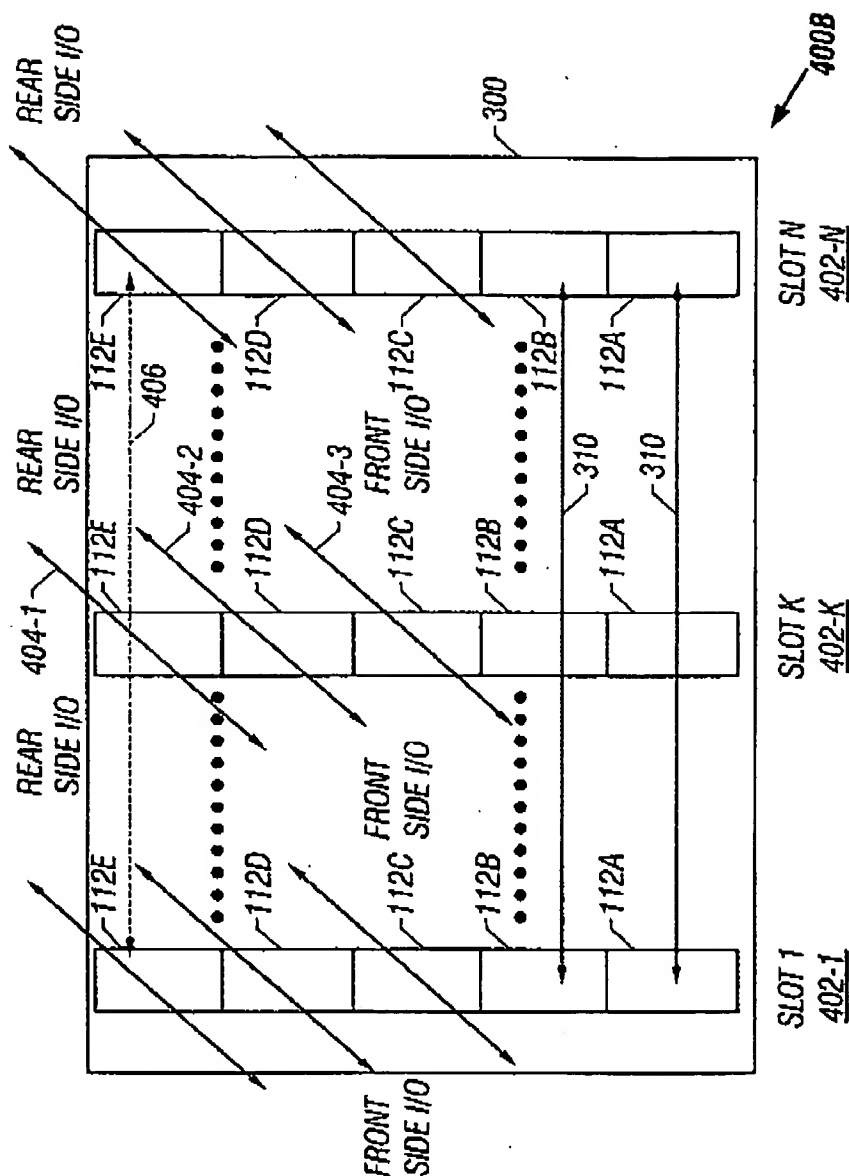
Annotated Marked-up Drawings

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Annotated Marked-up Drawings

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